

## Message Text

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16

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01 /045 W

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R 270927Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7075

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FROM AMBASSADOR FOR SECRETARY BUTZ

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR OVIP JA

SUBJ: MINISTER SAKURAUCHI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: TOFAS 573 AND FASTO 406

SUMMARY: MINISTER SAKURAUCHI WILL WANT TO DISCUSS CURRENT AND LONG TERM FOOD SUPPLY AND PRICE SITUATION AND RELATED SUBJECTS IN MEETING WITH SECRETARY BUTZ NEXT WEEK. END SUMMARY.

1. AT LUNCH TODAY, MINISTER SAKURAUCHI INDICATED HE WOULD PROBABLY RAISE THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS WITH YOU NEXT WEEK.
2. FERTILIZER SUPPLY SITUATION - HE APPARENTLY IS CONCERNED WITH THE IMPACT OF A POSSIBLE U.S. SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZER ON U.S. OUTPUT AND THEREFORE AVAILABILITY TO JAPAN OF FEED GRAINS AND OTHER ITEMS.
3. LONG TERM SUPPLY AND PURCHASE COMMITMENTS - THE MINISTER APPEARED TO BE VERY INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT WHICH, HOWEVER, WAS PLAYED DOWN BY UCHIMURA WHO QUESTIONED THE FEASIBILITY OF LONG TERM ARRANGEMENTS AND SPECIFICALLY OF THE POSSIBILITY OF TRADING COMPANIES MAKING DIRECT PURCHASE CONTRACTS WITH U.S. GRAIN PRODUCERS.
4. THE PRICE OUTLOOK - HIGHER WORLD WHEAT PRICES COMBINED WITH DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES WILL RESULT IN A COMBINED

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FOOD ACCOUNT LOSS ON WHEAT AND RICE OF 720 BILLION YEN IN

THE NEXT JFY UNLESS THE MINISTRY IS ABLE TO RAISE ITS RESALE PRICES. ELIMINATING THE LOSS WOULD NECESSITATE AN OVERALL PRICE INCREASE OF 68 PERCENT, BUT POLITICAL PRESSURES PROBABLY WILL HOLD THE ACTUAL INCREASE TO 30 PERCENT.

5. SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PROPOSED WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY THE MOTIVATION BEHIND IT. HE IS HIGHLY SKEPTICAL OF THE DESIRABILITY OF SUCH A CONFERENCE UNLESS PRIOR BILATERAL MEETINGS OF PRINCIPAL COUNTRIES INVOLVED INDICATE IT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL. IT SHOULD NOT JUST PROVIDE A FORUM FOR LDC'S TO PUT PRESSURE ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

6. LOG EXPORT CONTROLS - HE HAS HEARD REPORTS THAT U.S. MIGHT FURTHER TIGHTEN CONTROLS IN RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES.

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## Message Attributes

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